Development of A-7 Rifle by Ordnance Factory, Dehradun

1472. SHRI RAMAMUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ordnance Factory in Dehradun developed a A-7 rifle which is at par with AK-47 rifle;

(b) if so, the details of the discovery;

(c) whether Government propose to give it only to CRPF and BSF personnel; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUE) (a) to (d) No, Sir. However, the Small Arms Factory, Kanpur developed a 7.62 mm assault rifle as a substitute of AK-47 rifle for supply to the armed forces, central para military forces and state police organizations. Certain short comings have been pointed out during trial evaluation of this weapon by the Border Security Force. Further the Ministry of Home Affairs has advised the Ordnance Factory Board to develop a 5.56 mm assault rifle.

Need to Increase Army's Strength

1473. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRASEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Army needs its strength to be increased commensurably; and

(b) if so, the action taken for immediate expansion of elite forces?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The strength of the army is dictated by security environment and threat perceptions. It envisages both qualitative and quantitative changes in the army to maintain desired combat potential against adversaries and to successfully execute operational missions in furtherance of national interest.